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THE WALKING DEAD



SOMETHING TO

FEAR

part four

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Cover D

SEAN PHILLIPS

Cover E

BRYAN HITCH & JOHN RAUCH

Cover F

RYAN OTTLEY & JOHN RAUCH

Cover G

CHARLIE ADLARD & CLIFF RATHBURN

Cover H

CHARLIE ADLARD

Cover I

Previously:

The group mourned the loss of Abraham. Glenn convinced Maggie to move to the Hilltop. Rick recruited a small team to inform the Hilltop community of Negan's attack, suspecting the timing would work in his favor. He was wrong.

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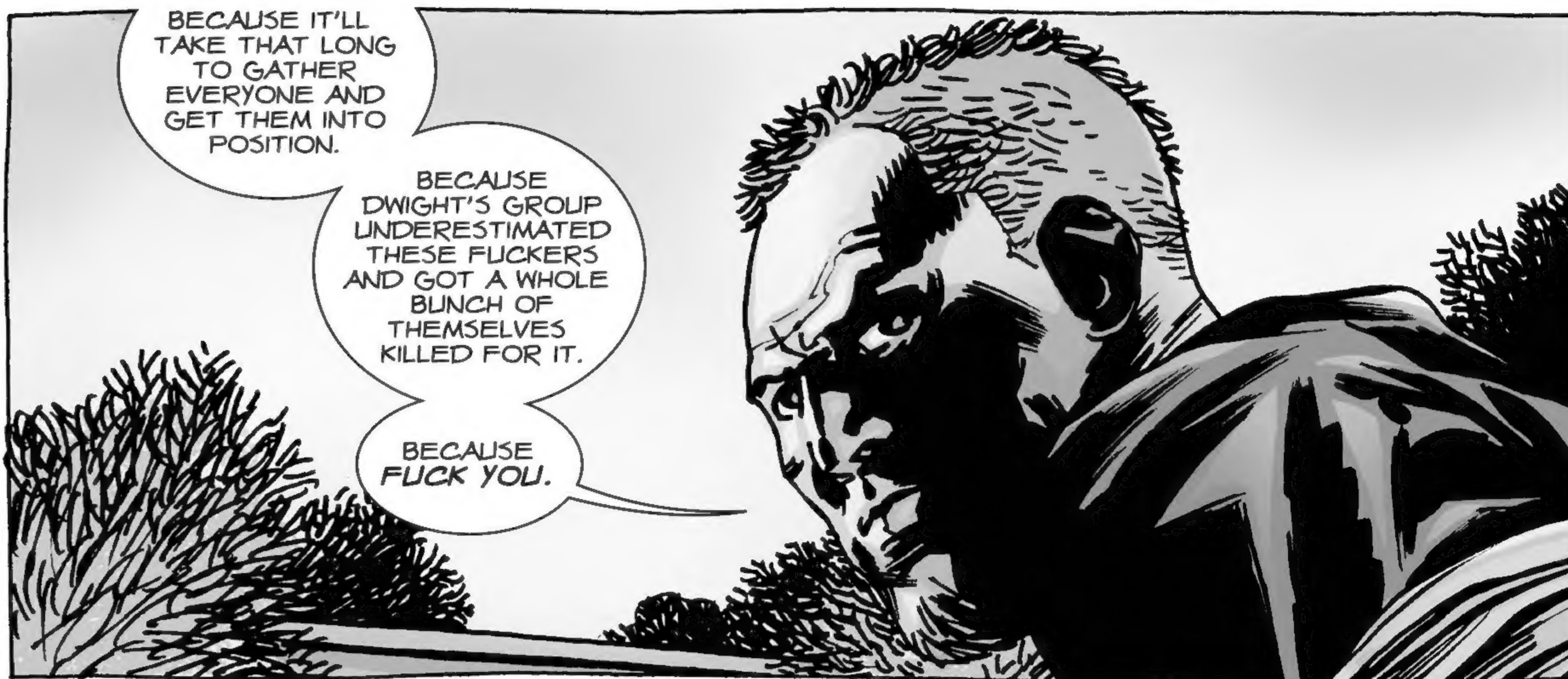
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DAWN?

ANY
PARTICULAR
REASON WE'D
WAIT A FULL
DAY BEFORE
GOING IN?



BECAUSE IT'LL
TAKE THAT LONG
TO GATHER
EVERYONE AND
GET THEM INTO
POSITION.

BECAUSE
DWIGHT'S GROUP
UNDERESTIMATED
THESE FUCKERS
AND GOT A WHOLE
BUNCH OF
THEMSELVES
KILLED FOR IT.

BECAUSE
FUCK YOU.



THERE'S
NO REASON
TO BE
RUDE.

YOU KNOW
HOW I FEEL
ABOUT THAT
KIND OF
LANGUAGE.



OH, FOR
FUCK'S SAKE.
ENOUGH.

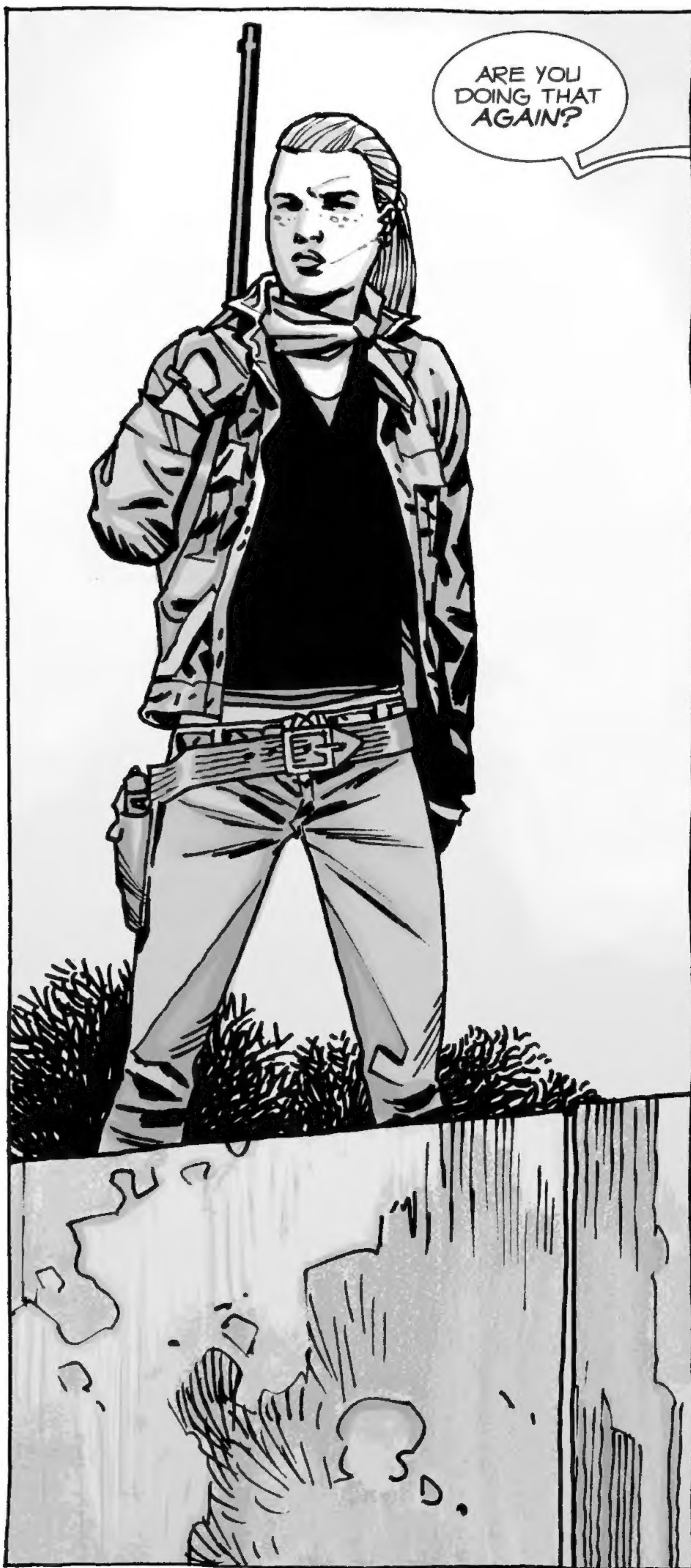
I'M HEADING
TO TELL PAUL.
HIS GROUP IS
THE FARTHEST,
IT'LL KEEP ME
AWAY FROM YOU
THE LONGEST.

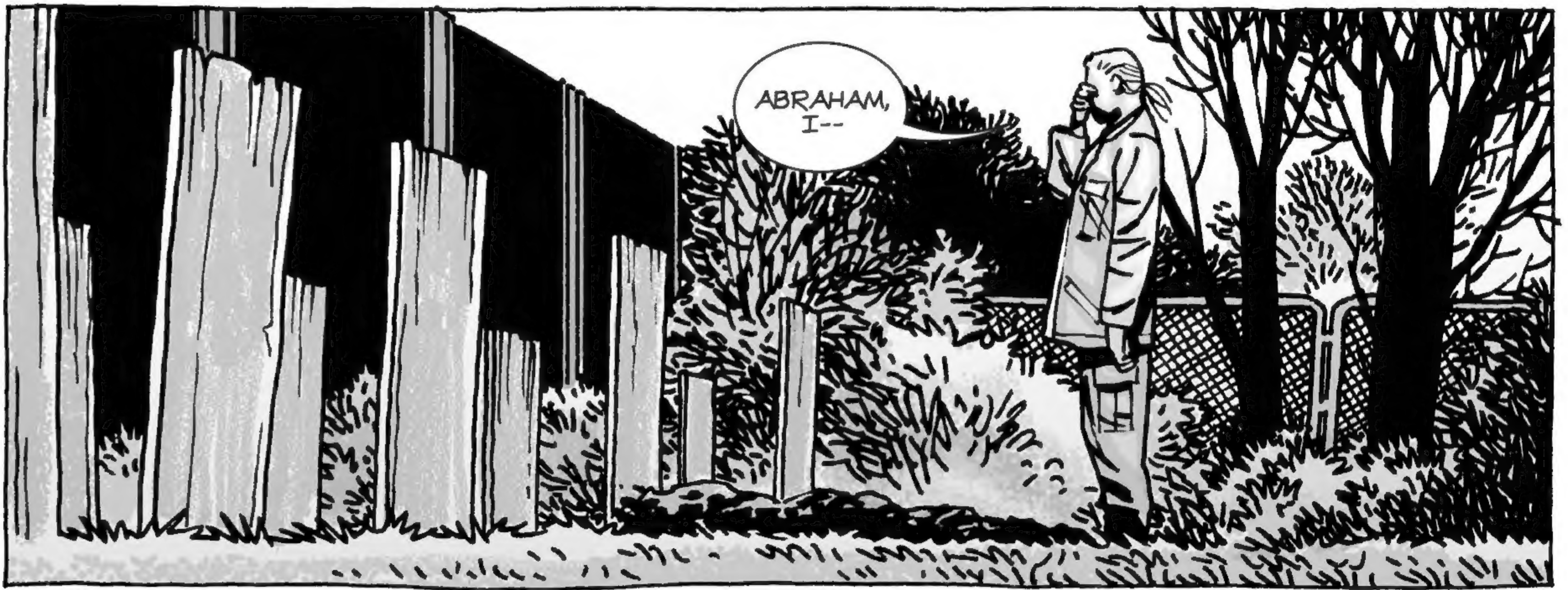


FINE.
WHATEVER.

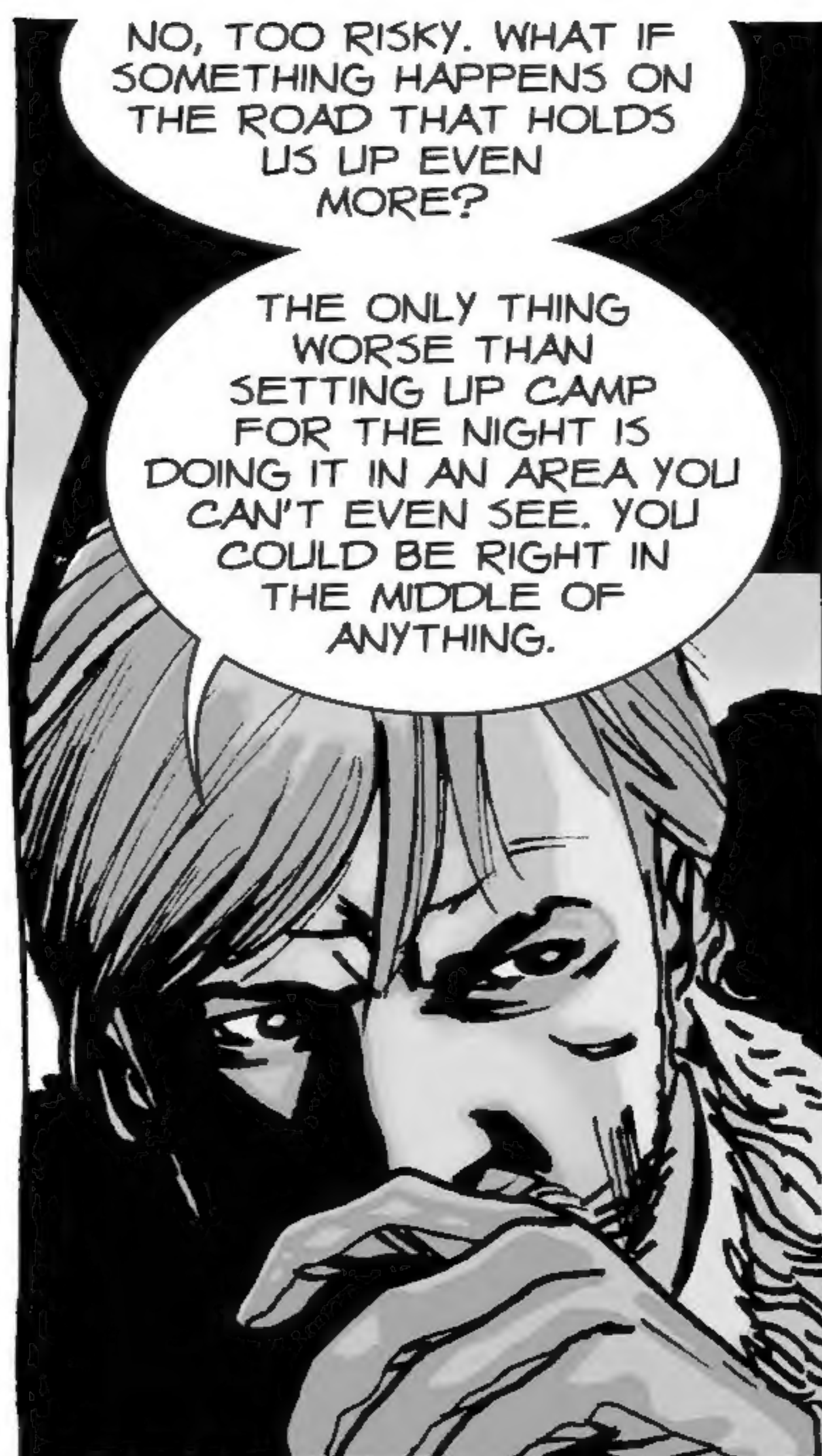
COME THIS
TIME TOMORROW
WE'LL BE KNEE
DEEP IN THE
BLOOD AND
THUNDER.

THESE
PITIFUL FUCKS
WON'T KNOW
WHAT HIT
'EM.











GOING
TO BE
OKAY?



WE CHECKED
OUT THE AREA,
THERE'S A CLEAR
LINE OF SIGHT
ALL AROUND US,
AND IT'S A CLEAR
NIGHT, GOOD
VISIBILITY.

I'M ON IT.
GET SOME
SLEEP.



THANKS FOR...
WELL, EVERYTHING.
YOU'VE ALWAYS
BEEN THERE
FOR ME AND...

...I DON'T
THINK I'VE
EVER SAID
THANKS.

I FIGURED KEEPING ME
ALIVE WAS OUR WAY OF
SAYING THAT. FOLLOWING
YOU INTO THE GATES OF
HELL THEMSELVES IS
MY WAY OF SAYING
IT TO YOU.



YOU KNOW THIS
IS A FUCKING
DISASTER
ALREADY,
RIGHT?



I
KNOW.



NOW I'M WORRIED
ABOUT GETTING
BACK BEFORE
ANDREA PANICS
AND SENDS
A SEARCH
PARTY...

...

I'LL RELIEVE
YOU IN A FEW
HOURS. WE
NEED TO BE ON
THE ROAD AT DAWN.

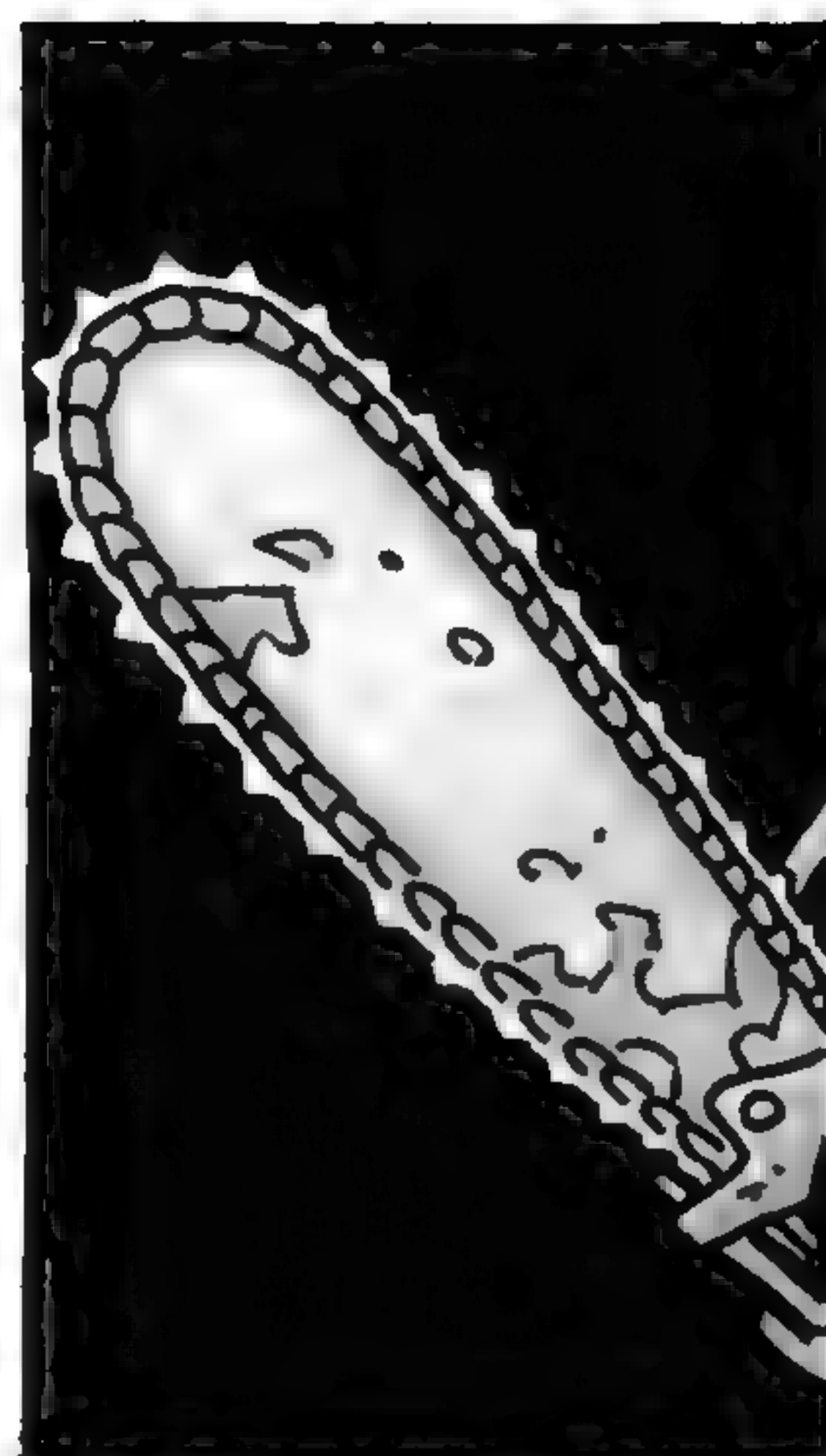














OH,
BABY...



...WE PISSING OUR PANTS
YET? OH, BOY--DO I HAVE
A FEELING WE'RE
GETTING CLOSE.

IT'S GOING TO
BE PEE PEE
PANTS CITY HERE
REAL SOON.

WHICH ONE
OF YOU
PRICKS IS THE
LEADER?



IT'S THIS
ONE, HE'S
THE GUY.



HI. RICK, ISN'T IT? I'M NEGAN,
AND I DO NOT APPRECIATE
YOU KILLING MY MEN. ALSO,
WHEN I SENT MY MEN TO
KILL YOUR MEN FOR KILLING
MY MEN YOU KILLED MORE
OF MY MEN.

NOT
COOL.

NOT
FLUCKING
COOL.



YOU GOT NO
FLUCKING IDEA
HOW NOT
FLUCKING COOL
THAT SHIT IS.

BUT I
IMAGINE YOU'LL
BE UP TO
SPEED SHORTLY.
YEAH.



YOU'RE
GOING TO
SO REGRET
CROSSING
ME IN A FEW
MINUTES.

FLUCK
YES, YOU
WILL.

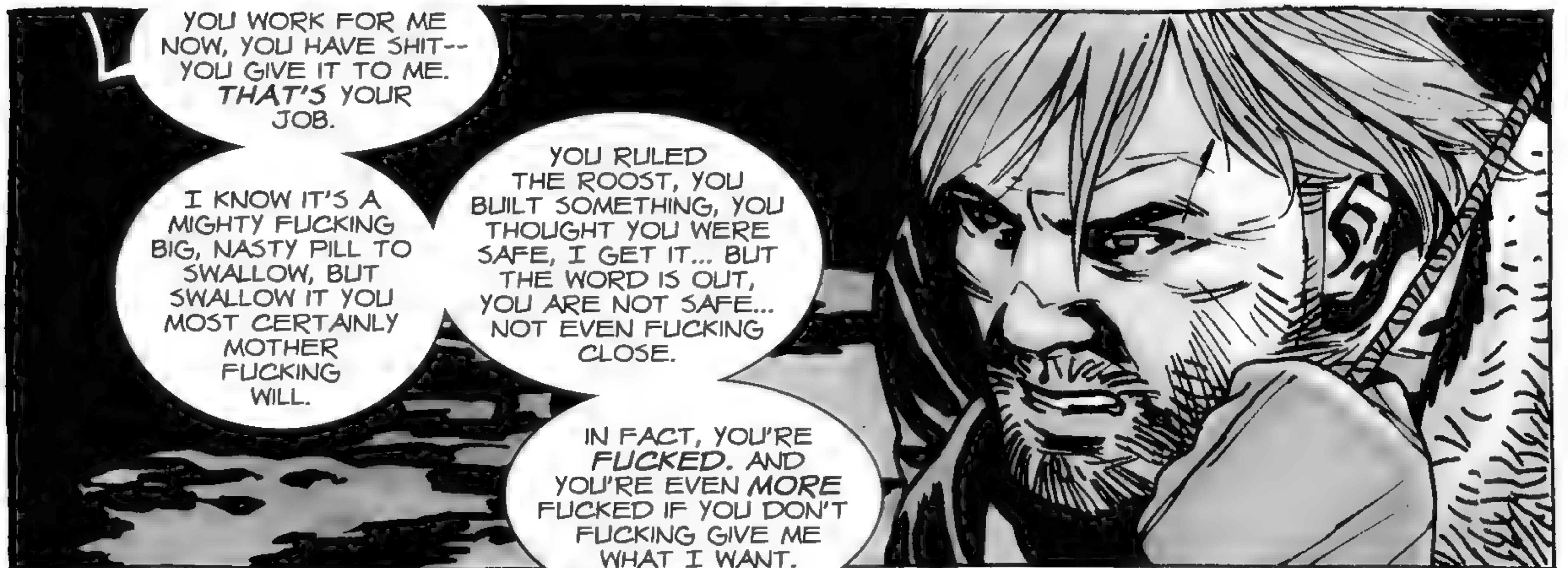


YOU SEE, RICK. WHATEVER YOU DO... NO MATTER FUCKING WHAT... YOU **DO NOT** MESS WITH THE NEW WORLD ORDER.

THE NEW WORLD ORDER IS THIS, AND IT'S **VERY** SIMPLE, SO EVEN IF YOU'RE FUCKING STUPID... WHICH YOU MAY VERY WELL BE... YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT.

READY? HERE GOES... PAY ATTENTION.

GIVE ME YOUR SHIT OR I WILL KILL YOU.



YOU WORK FOR ME NOW, YOU HAVE SHIT-- YOU GIVE IT TO ME. **THAT'S YOUR JOB.**

I KNOW IT'S A MIGHTY FUCKING BIG, NASTY PILL TO SWALLOW, BUT SWALLOW IT YOU MOST CERTAINLY MOTHER FUCKING WILL.

YOU RULED THE ROOST, YOU BUILT SOMETHING, YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE SAFE, I GET IT... BUT THE WORD IS OUT, YOU ARE NOT SAFE... NOT EVEN FUCKING CLOSE.

IN FACT, YOU'RE **FUCKED**. AND YOU'RE EVEN MORE FUCKED IF YOU DON'T FUCKING GIVE ME WHAT I WANT.



AND WHAT I WANT IS HALF YOUR SHIT--IF THAT'S TOO MUCH, JUST MAKE, FIND OR STEAL MORE AND IT'LL ALL EVEN OUT EVENTUALLY.

THIS IS YOUR WAY OF LIFE NOW. THE MORE YOU FIGHT BACK, THE HARDER IT'S GOING TO BE.

NEXT TIME SOMEONE COMES TO YOUR DOOR... YOU FUCKING **LET US IN**. WE OWN THAT DOOR. YOU TRY TO STOP US-- WE'LL FUCKING KNOCK IT THE FUCK DOWN.

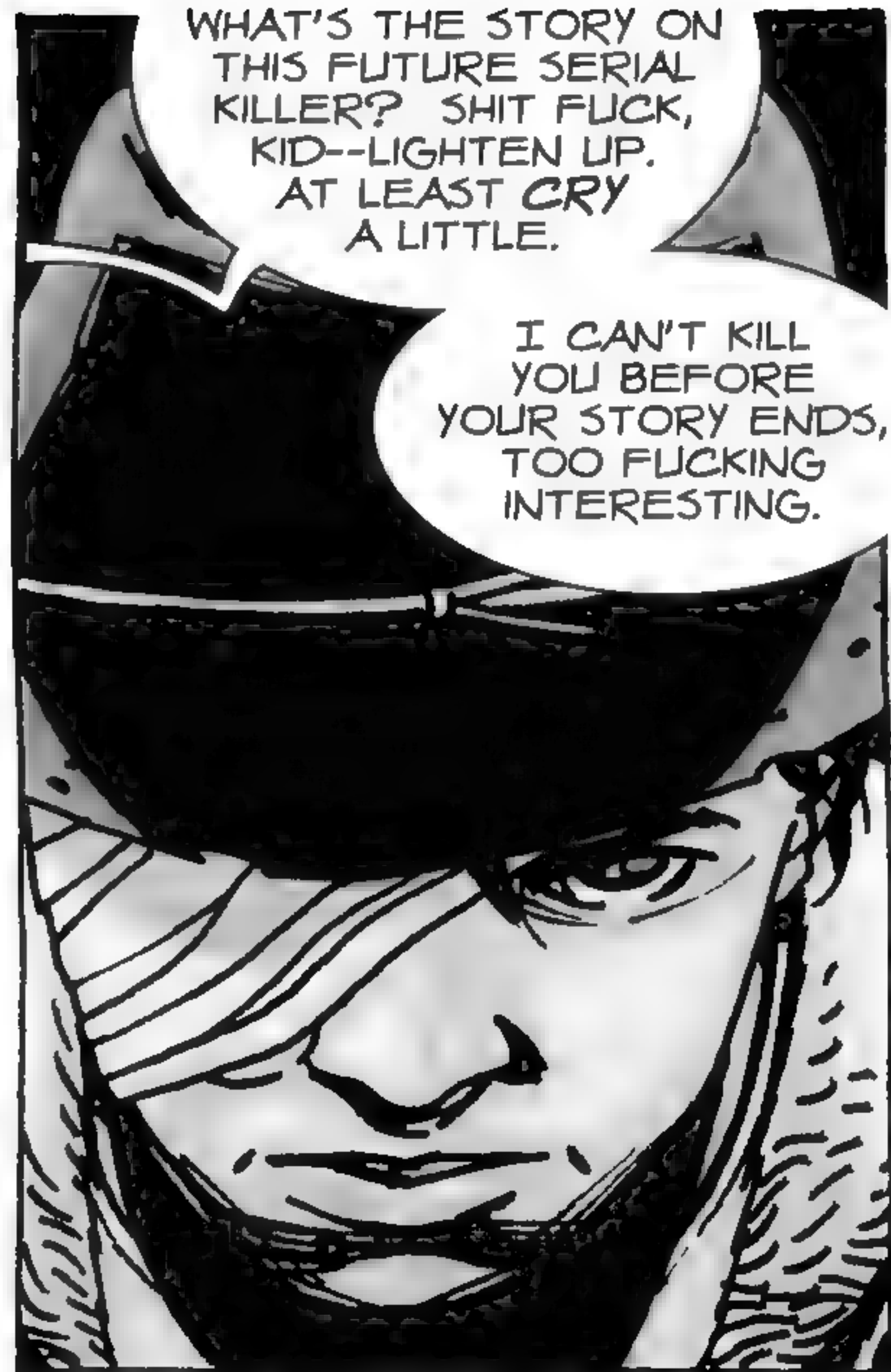
UNDERSTAND?



NO ANSWER?

WELL, YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK YOU WERE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS WITHOUT GETTING **PUNISHED**, NOW DID YOU?

LINE THEM UP.











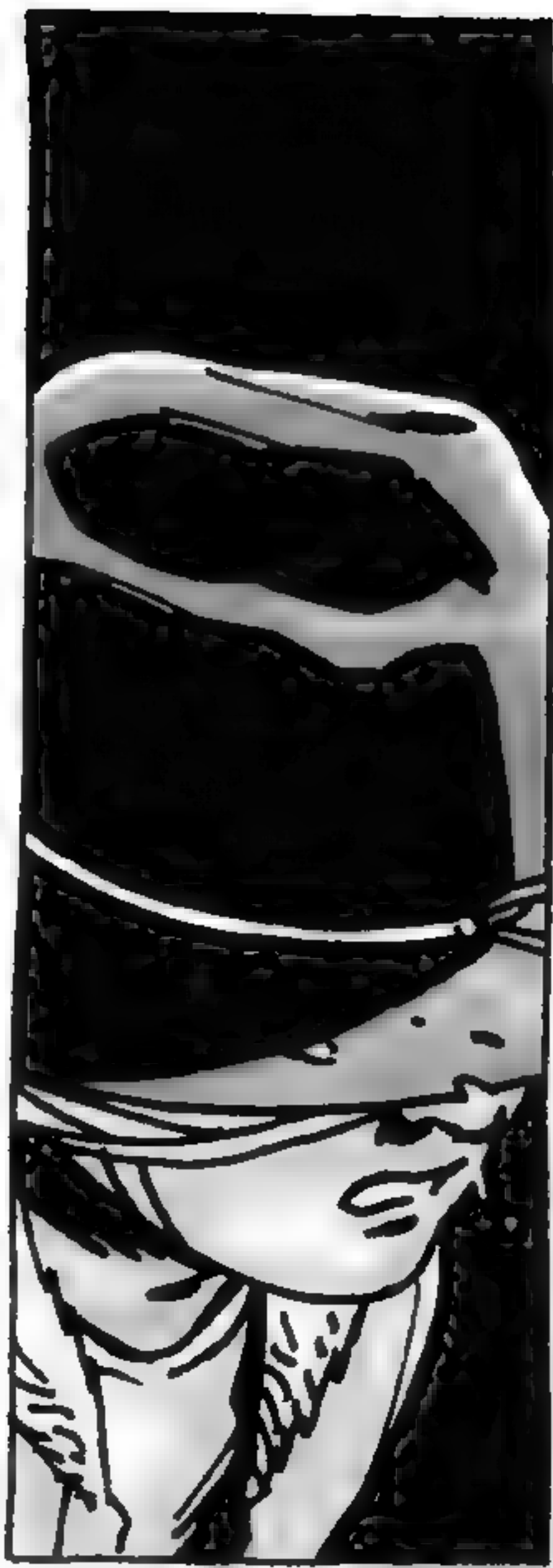


HOLY SHIT--
HE'S TAKING
IT LIKE A
CHAMP!



M--M--
M--

M--

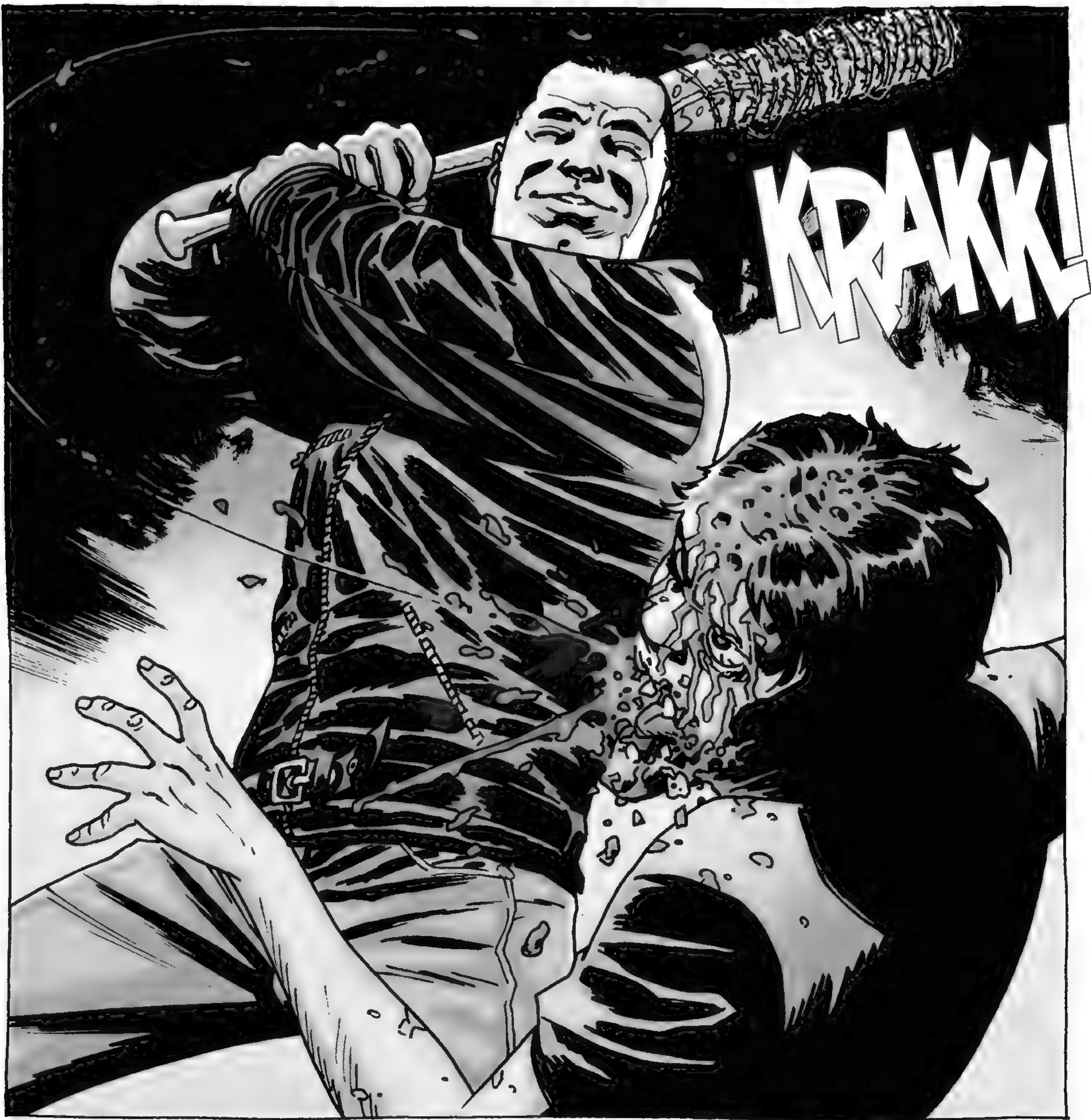


YOU IN THERE,
BUDDY?
I JUST
DON'T KNOW.
SEEMS LIKE
YOU'RE TRYING
TO SPEAK, BUT
YOU JUST TOOK
A HELL OF
A HIT.

I CRACKED
YOUR SKULL SO
MUCH THAT YOUR
FUCKING **EYE**
POPPED OUT. IT'S
GROSS AS
SHIT.

I DON'T
THINK--









HEH...

LUCILLE
IS A
VAMPIRE
BAT.



WHAT?

WAS
THE JOKE
THAT
BAD?



I'M
GOING
TO KILL
YOU.



I'M SORRY,
I DIDN'T
QUITE CATCH
THAT.

SPEAK
UP.



NOT
TODAY, NOT
TOMORROW...

BUT
I WILL
KILL
YOU.



NO, YOU
WON'T.

YOUR BEST
FLUCKING CHANCE
IS RIGHT NOW.
STAND UP AND PUT
A KNIFE IN MY
THROAT, DRIVE
AN AXE INTO
MY FACE.

GO
AHEAD...

AS SOON AS
MY BODY HITS THE
FLOOR MY SAVIORS
WILL FLUCKING FLUCK
YOU PEOPLE UP
UNTIL YOUR INSIDES
ARE OUTSIDE--WORSE
THAN YOUR LITTLE
ASIAN FRIEND,
FOR SURE.



IN FACT,
YOU WANT TO
KEEP ACTING TOUGH,
LIKE I STILL NEED TO
BREAK YOU... AND I'LL
HAVE A FEW OF MY BOYS
RUN A TRAIN ON YOUR BOY.

GOT AT
LEAST A FEW
HERE THAT'D
BE INTO THAT
SORT OF
THING.

WANT
TO TEST
ME?



WELL?



DO
YOU?!

WRAM!



I KNOW THIS
IS HARD FOR YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN THE
KING SHIT MOTHER
FUCKER FOR SO
DAMN LONG. BOSSING
PEOPLE AROUND...
BEING "IN CHARGE"
SO LONG YOU'RE
PROBABLY
ADDICTED
TO IT.

HELL,
YOU PROBABLY
THOUGHT YOU
HAD THIS WORLD
FIGURED
OUT.

MANAGING
THE DEAD,
GATHERING SUPPLIES...
MIGHT HAVE EVEN
BEEN A LONG TIME
SINCE THE LAST
PERSON DIED
BEFORE WE
CAME ALONG.

WORKING
TOGETHER...



THAT'S
ALL OVER
NOW.

DONE.

GONE.

DEAD.

IT'S
TIME FOR
SOMETHING
NEW.



EVERYTHING HAS
CHANGED, RICK.
THINGS ARE GOING
TO BE **DIFFERENT**
FROM NOW
ON.

YOU'RE
ENTERING
INTO A
WHOLE NEW
WORLD.

IT DIDN'T
HAVE TO BE
SUCH A PAINFUL
BIRTH--**YOU**
MADE IT THAT
WAY.



I JUST HOPE--FOR YOUR
FUCKING SAKE, YOU'VE
FINALLY REALIZED HOW
THINGS WORK AND
WHERE YOU STAND
IN ALL THIS.



THINGS
HAVE
CHANGED,
RICK.

WHATEVER
YOU HAD GOING
FOR YOU--
THAT'S OVER.



YOU ANSWER TO ME.
YOU PROVIDE FOR
ME. YOU **BELONG**
TO ME.

WELCOME
TO A BRAND
NEW BEGINNING,
YOU SORRY
FUCKS.

WE'LL COME
FOR YOUR FIRST
OFFERING IN
ONE WEEK.

UNTIL
THEN....



TA TA

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Welcome readers, to our monumental 100th letters column.

Editor Sina Grace here... ready to answer your letters with as much zest and zeal as when I began helping Robert with this column over two years ago. Thanks for having me along for this crazy ride, Robert!

Charlie Adlard wanted to chime in for this momentous event...

"Wow, my 94th issue... who'd a thunk it? What a milestone... Actually, WOW, issue 100... REALLY, who would have thought it, indeed. This is so much a milestone in so many ways. I know it's a total cliché, but there was no way Robert and I, when we started working together, ever dreamt that it would come to this... I nearly thought I personally might not last past the initial six issues of my run [thank you, Eric, for persuading me otherwise!]. But, when you get to this stage of success, all you ever seem to do is utter clichés... But, I don't think I'd have it any other way. So, thank you Image, thank you Robert, thank you Cliff, thank you Rus, thank you Sina, thank you all at Skybound, and thank you the loyal fans... THANK YOU!

Oh - and looking forward to the REAL milestone - issue #106..."

Robert, you have anything to say?

Lots, but I'll try to keep it brief, because I don't want to ramble on forever. I'd like to thank everyone Charlie thanks but also add everyone at AMC (Bockrath... and the rest) as well as Gale Anne Hurd, Glen Mazzara, David Alpert and even Frank Darabont for helping make the TV show possible and getting us a whole lot more eyeballs for our big spectacular anniversary issue and the lead up to it.

I think some of you might have heard that this issue is shaping up to be the HIGHEST SELLING COMIC OF THE YEAR which is pretty astounding. I never really thought about having a number one book in any month (let alone for the whole year) but I have to say I'm extremely proud that it's something I created, and not some corporate book that has nearly 100 years of fans behind it. I do have to admit that this feels like a pretty special achievement, and I'm thrilled about what this means for comics as a whole.

If you haven't recognized the dawn of the age of creator-owned comics, I think it's pretty hard to argue that it's not here now. If you're not reading all the fantastic creator-owned books from Image (and a few elsewhere- I'm looking at you Mark Millar!) that are too numerous to even list here and are starting to top the sales charts... you're really missing out.

The Walking Dead, although I love it, is far from the best comic being published today.

Sina, let's dive into some mail!

Well, I'm a tad disappointed by the mild outpour of Abraham outrage. That's what I get for expecting crazed rants!

Ok. So I read issue #1 last summer. I didn't like it - not at all. So I decided to stick with the show and forget about the book.

That didn't last. No sir.

Never does.

At the end of "Beside the Dying Fire" I just had to know what was up. Over the course of the next five days, I read all 95 issues. Yep ... 95 issues in five days. I went from "meh" to "I have to wait how long for the next issue? ... FUCK!"

So, thank you. Great book. Great show.

One question ... do you plan to condense the timeline in the show to bring it closer to where the book is now? Just curious what the strategy might be.

Kirkman?

No, the show doesn't need to catch up to the book ever. I like the idea of it existing in the past of the comic timeline.

Oh, and RIP Abraham - I liked him, but reading 95 issues in five days taught me not to hold on to any character too tight.

Keep up the awesome work, and sorry I didn't hop on sooner.

Cheers,

David Fiorito
King of Prussia, PA

Even I've never read that much Walking Dead in one week! I usually cut myself off after 50 issues.

I really need to sit down and read through the series again... it's been a while.

Mr Kirkman and Mr. Grace,

Two words to describe issue 98: Mein god.

First off, FORD? KILLED? BY A TINY ARROW? That shit just came out of nowhere. Not that I'm saying I loved Ford but....damn. Didn't see that coming. Thought I'd be seeing him around for a while.

Second, I bet the guys are gonna give Eugene a hard time for that dick-biting incident, huh? Probably won't help his chances with Rosita very much, either.

Maybe Rosita will see him as a ballsy dude. Or not.

Third, more naked Andrea, please. Just a little side-boob or something every once in a while? That was

pretty satisfying.

The moment you’ve been waiting near a decade for!

Shame on you people!

So, what with all this dick-biting and nudity, I see great things coming for this series and I’m excited for this legendary issue 100 that I’ve heard all about. I keep thinking to myself that Negan’s gonna be some cool action star look-alike and it excites me...a lot. By the way, this is my first Letter Hacks, so I must say thank you, Mr. Kirkman, for creating this wonderful world which has consumed my life. Also, if you lay a single hand on the head of my boy, Glenn, or his girls, hoes will be hunted down and slapped. PEACE.

Jack Russell
Santa Ana CA

P.S. The game is awesome so far.

Congratulations, Jack! You’re here to celebrate issue 100 with us! Yes, our wonderful folks at telltale make an awesome game! So do the folks at ZMan with our board game! You play board games, right?

Dearest Kirkmanly and Sina,

Super pumped for issue #100, but after reading issue #98 I have a few questions:

1. What differentiates The Saviours from the Woodbury group or the cannibals in Fear the Hunters? Why would Rick, who is typically pretty vicious when it comes to threats, become hesitant and scared at the end of the issue?

Kirkman?

It was a moment. A moment where he just found out Abraham, one of his key pieces of muscle was taken out and he had to drag him back into the community himself. So he was a little shell shocked. Also, he was underestimating the Saviors... because of his experience with Woodbury and the Hunters... so he wasn’t prepared for this encounter.

2. A fire fight in the community? Won’t that attract another herd?

Given how much travel there’s been around the community, it’s safe to say that a lot of walkers have been disposed of, or at least enough to keep a herd from coming about.

There’s always a threat of that... but they’re prepared to deal with that now.

3. This one’s for Sina. I’ve always wondered what does being an editor for Robert entail? Feeding him grapes and fanning him while he writes his “stories”?

There is NONE of that going on. I do my best to keep on top of his projects, take care of balloon placements, and manage deadlines. Sometimes I buy him a coffee drink, but that’s as close to fanning him as I get!

What is this “fanning” you speak of? Is that something I can get?!

Preemptive congratulations to The Walking Dead team for reaching 100. Here’s to shambling on to hundreds of more issues!

Matt Ferguson

Party hats! OH merch idea! #kidding #oramI

Dear Dead Dudes,

Oh man, issue 100 was _____! I can’t believe that Rick actually _____! And that _____ person is definitely one I’ll be keeping my eye on, he/she is so _____. I gotta admit though, I’m kinda bummed that you killed _____. I mean, I know no

one is safe in this book but _____ was becoming one of my favorite characters and now they’re dead?! Kirkman, you _____/_____, _____/_____, _____!!! Oh well, at least _____ the TV show, right?

I mean... it’s not like you really proved anything here.

Okay, this letter isn’t really from the future (fooled you, I know). Issue 98 came out a couple of days ago. I just wanted to be the first letter you got regarding the monumental events that may or may not occur in #100. Hell, #100 is a monumental achievement on its own! You’re 1/3 of the way to Cerebus which is pretty damn cool. I imagine you’ll get a lot of comments from people wearing their “I Was There First!” shirts who have been around since Issue 1 so I figured I’d send you an image of TRUE die-hards who have managed to stick around from the beginning, I hope you like it (and you definitely have permission to print it if you’d like/have space in the issue).

Thanks for the many years of survival horror. My wife Karen and I love each and every issue.

Nearing ten! Next October (2013)!

Vernon Smith
www.ElMacFearsome.com

Oh and here’s the obligatory “I can’t believe you killed Abraham! Kirkman, you _____/_____, _____/_____, _____!!!

You wouldn’t believe how many expletives we’ve gotten. Still, Carl getting shot is the winner for how many people screamed at us for that.

Reaction has been pretty tame. I’ve only seen a few threats about quitting the book.

Please don’t follow the competition and start having gay zombies!

Your loyal reader
Kenneth Taber

You ruined issue 200.

Sina (sorry Robert this one’s personal)

Last time I wrote in was Issue 72 when I wrote (among other things):

“People are always complaining about the noise guns make in your book. Why no crossbows?”

To which you replied (abridged):

“Simple answer: Who besides me has a crossbow lying around their house?”

A question to which I will now answer: Some pretty major characters in the Walking Dead universe it seems (some even store arrows in their eye sockets).

Anyway gloating over....for now (still waiting for that L shaped hook)

I just want to say thanks for all the quality comics over the years. May it continue for a long long time.

All the best,
Will Tucker

Alright Will, let’s celebrate issue 100 with you calling me out. I believe yours was one of the first letters I answered, so go ahead: call it.

Hi Robert and Sina,

I just found out about the casting for the Governor and, while I’m sure David Morrissey will do a great job, I’m wondering if you guys had considered making Merle from season 1 the Governor. Rick handcuffed him to the roof, forcing him to cut off his own hand, so it seems fitting

that Merle be the one to take Rick’s.

As far as I know, the producers always considered Merle to be Merle, and the Governor to be a separate entity entirely. When the time comes, you’ll get to see Merle again.

There was never any plan to make Merle the Governor. I good indication that we’re not going to do something is if hundreds of people predict it. If it’s obvious, we’ve probably already decided not to do it... because it’s obvious.

Moving away from the TV Show and into the comics, I was wondering if Robert could talk a bit about the difficulty in finding new things for these characters to do after so many issues—not to say that there isn’t a little bit of recycling (Negan seems to be The Governor 2: Govern Harder)—but for the most part everything feels fresh and that can’t be easy to do.

Also, was curious if you think our group of survivors will ever make it back to an urban setting? By now I would think the cities have cleared out to an extent or maybe they haven’t, who knows? I guess what I’m saying the group has been in the country for so long that we don’t really know how cities have held up against the apocalypse. They were overrun at first, sure, but have any survivors eked out an existence there? What is dealing with the apocalypse like in that setting and what might need to be handled differently than in a rural environment? Some interesting stuff to explore there, I think. But hey, that’s just my know-nothing take on the matter.

Big fan of everything you guys do.

Cheers,
Andrew Barr

Kirkman, can you spare any kind of detail here?

We’ll see more urban environments eventually, yes. This book is nowhere close to ending... in fact, we’re not even close to the midpoint... there’s a LOT more story to tell.

[SEASON TWO SPOILERS BELOW]

Heya Kirkman!

First an aside, I used to love comics as a kid - about 6 - that was 40 years ago. I forget what I was reading but it was usually these weird “soldier” stories where dead guys were always rising to rip apart some Nazi or such, and I read fun stuff to. Some reason about 12 I just quit reading them. I found TWD on AMC, and ended up joining a facebook fan group. If you knew me at all then you know the probability of me joining a fan group is 10 bazillion to 1 against... anyway, someone finally, finally talked me into reading the comics as I was afraid the comic would “spoil” the show. I’m buying the Hardbounds for my collection. Just thought, I don’t know how you could work it in on Talking Dead, but someone adamantly stating that reading the comic won’t spoil your enjoyment of the TV show might bump your sales a little.

Another side, your series has changed my vocabulary slightly. The two most common are:

Shane; verb; - To do something underhanded or devious to a friend or family member. Ex: “Tod really shaned Dave when he stole his girlfriend.”

Kirkman; verb; - The inexplicable, uncaring way the universe treats people. Ex: “How can I get mad at a typhoon when it is just so Kirkman.”

Also, a new phrase has sprouted. “I really need to talk to my girlfriend about moving in, but that’s opening a barn full of walkers.”

I’m gonna use these! Nice!

But all fun aside, let’s get serious for a moment. When I got into the comic, or graphic novel, or whatever.. I had the flu, and a friend had hooked me up with all 84

issues. So, having nothing to do but sit in bed I read ALL 84 issues in one sitting. I HIGHLY recommend this approach to any new reader out there as, like the characters, you don’t get a break from the horror.

One thing that crept into my vision kind of early is that while Rick is the central character the story almost focuses on Carl. He’s the one to watch, and the only character you can really have any faith won’t get et’ soon. I think I saw you comment on this yourself? Anyway, my big question has been that in the comic Carl goes through a hell that can only really happen in the comic media. I have seen a lot of the interviews, Talking Dead, and such, so I know there are 5 billion “child safety” laws that won’t let TV Carl go through the things comic Carl has. And because of this I cannot imagine how you will get TV Carl to the same place believably. Any insights you can share?

Kirkman?

You’re just going to have to keep watching...

Ok, I saw the letter bitchin’ about the Playboy Michonne thing... gotta say, I was excited. Yes, I understand how some people could have an issue here, and no, I won’t be buying that issue either. But I still applaud the move for several reasons. People out of the blue know don’t realize that Playboy really has more than nudie pics in it. Some of the interviews, President Carter for example, have been awesome. And I remember as a young teen reading some of Stephen King’s shorts (under Bachman) there, including the short for “Children of the Corn”. But, I’m an older man now and not really wanting a pile of Playboy’s in the closet... I’m an artist and have thought about trying to get some stuff published in Playboy because last I checked I could get my stuff under the nose of 8 million subscribers/ newsstand world-wide or some crazy number. Having that many people see my stuff, and get paid to contribute? Hell to the yea! Some day.

And in closing, Kirkman, you know I’m loving what you’re doing, comic and TV, and you’re the only writer I’ve ever cursed out loud. Please don’t take it personal... but damn it man! What the hell, killing off Dale in such a sucky way! I think Dale was the one man I could relate to philosophically. And I had JUST gotten one of my friends into the show, he says “I am really starting to like that Dale character. I can identify with him...” and blam! I’ll never forgive you... keep up the awesome work.

That’s kind of how this series works sometimes!

And finally, if you’ll allow a shout out... Yo! Thanks Sonya Thompson, Larry Mainland, and Matt Lyda (zombie actors on the show) for hanging with us on Facebook and talking zombie stuff. You’re great people. And IronE Singleton for lurking around... “We Love the Walking Dead”

a fan,
Dave Sunhammer

Even the zombie actors have fans! Awesome! How come no one ever gives a shout out to Brian Bockrath?

Thanks again to everyone for helping us get record breaking sales on this issue, for giving a zombie book a chance when the market wasn’t ready, and most of all, accepting the fact that I will hashtag long after twitter is over... Skybound owes you a firm handshake.

Yours `til I die,

-Sina Grace

Boy oh boy! I can’t believe issue 100 is in the can. Onward... toward issue 1000! Thanks again everyone!

-Robert Kirkman



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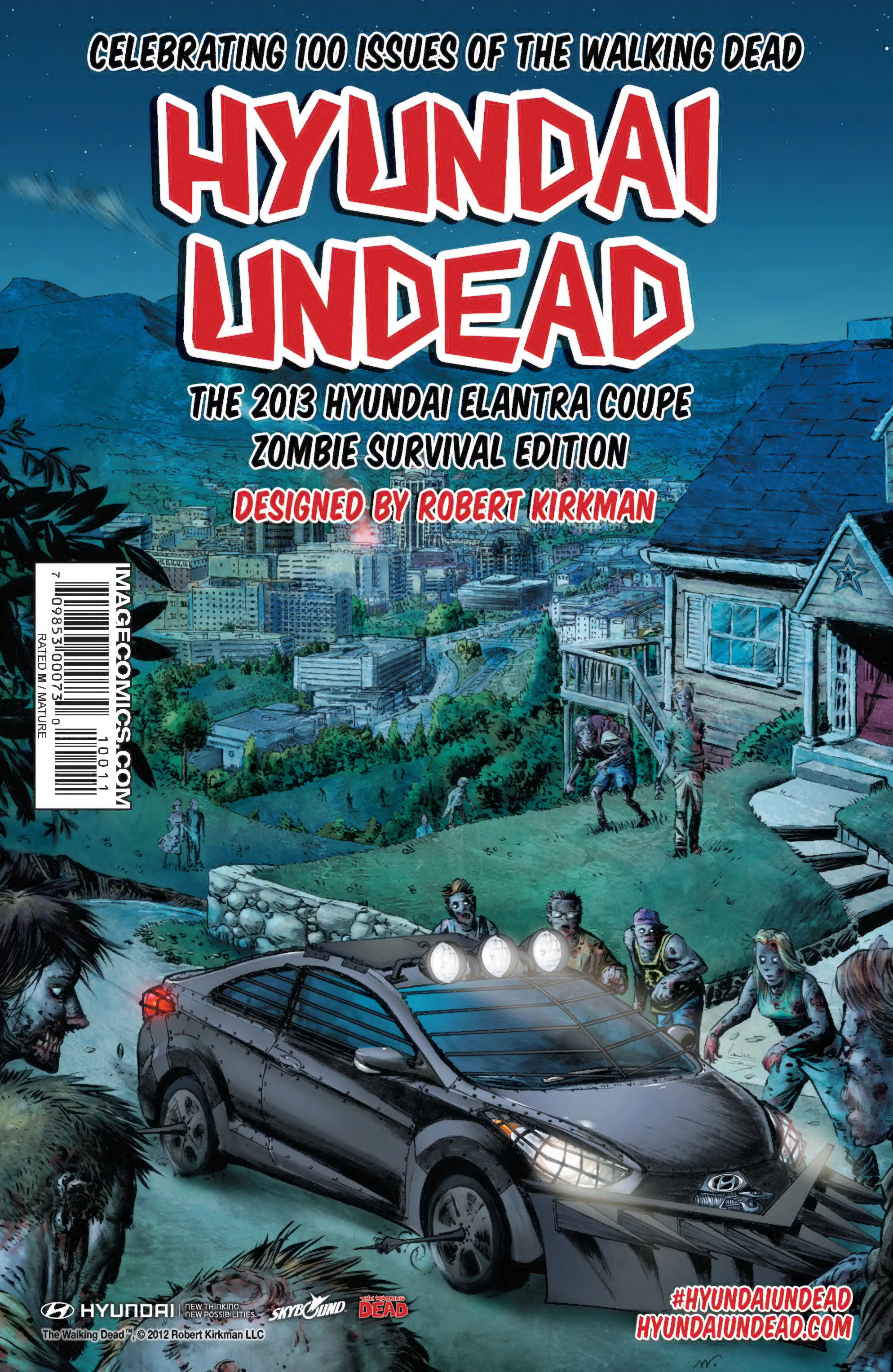
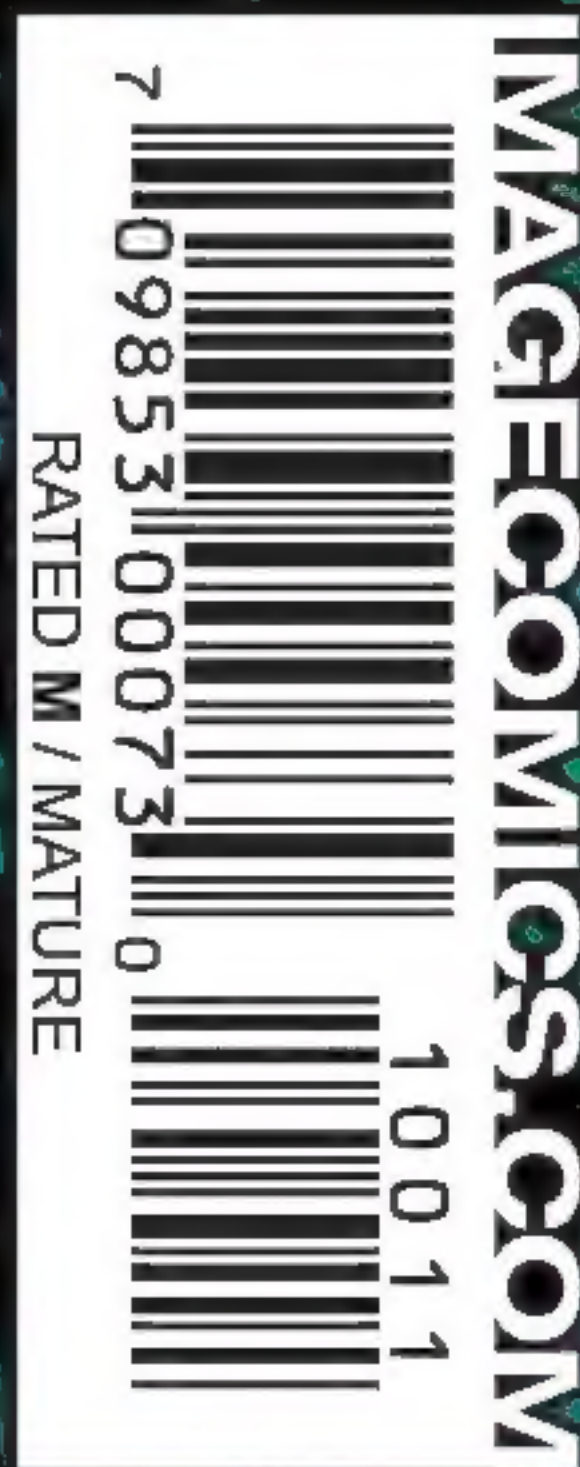
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